

---

# Public Notice

---

<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
North Coast Regional Council	of Published:
Park Districts	Expires:
<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</b>	
<b>In Reply Refer To:</b>	
Buffalo District <b>CELRB-CO-R RE:</b> 98-502-0030(1)	<b>Section:</b> OH 404

---

**Review of a Prospectus for a Wetland Mitigation Bank**  
**Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).**

The North Coast Regional Council of Park Districts, 12882 Diagonal Road, LaGrange, Ohio 44050, has submitted a prospectus for the construction of a four-county, multiple-site wetland and stream mitigation bank. The purpose of the proposed mitigation bank is to restore wetlands and streams for the purpose of providing compensatory mitigation in advance of authorized impacts to aquatic resources.

The North Coast Regional Council of Park Districts (NCRCPD) was formed in July of 1998, and currently consists of the Erie, Lorain, Medina and Sandusky Counties, Ohio Metropark Districts. The primary focus of the NCRCPD is the restoration and enhancement of wetlands and streams as compensatory mitigation for impacts to waters of the United States authorized under Sections 401 and 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), and the incorporation of the restored wetlands and streams into each respective County park system.

Under Section 404 of the CWA, applicants for Department of the Army permits to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, are often required to mitigate for permitted wetland losses by creating, restoring, enhancing, or, in exceptional circumstances, preserving wetlands or streams. The proposed mitigation bank will provide the Corps and the regulated public with additional options for compensatory mitigation of aquatic resource losses.

The establishment and use of this wetland mitigation bank will be as specified in a mitigation banking instrument under consideration by the Mitigation Bank Review Team (MBRT). The MBRT is comprised of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Huntington and Buffalo Districts), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA).

Currently, NCRCPD proposes to restore 238.3 acres of wetlands and enhance an additional 100.1 acres of existing wetlands at six (6) locations, as follows:

Sandusky County Metroparks:

White Star Park, Madison Township: Restoration of 60.3 acres of wetlands;

Blue Heron Reserve, Riley Township: Restoration of 54 acres of wetlands;

Erie County Metroparks:

Castalia Quarry, Margaretta Township: Restoration of 30 acres of wetlands;

Lorain County Metroparks:

Carlisle Reservation, Carlisle Township: Restoration of 21.5 acres of wetlands;

Medina County Metroparks:

Chippewa North, Lafayette Township: Restoration of 54.5 acres of wetlands and enhancement of 6.5 acres of existing wetlands.

Chippewa Central, Lafayette Township: Restoration of 18 acres of wetlands and enhancement of 93.6 acres of existing wetlands.

The Medina County sites are located within the Huntington District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, while the remaining sites are located within the Buffalo District. The wetlands at each site will provide recreational and educational resources for each Metropark District. Additional sites may be added to this multiple-site mitigation bank after publication of an additional public notice and subsequent approval of the MBRT, as specified in the mitigation banking instrument.

Applicants proposing to discharge dredged or fill material into wetlands, and to compensate for those wetland losses at the mitigation bank, will be subject to the same level of review as other applicants, and will be required to avoid or minimize impacts to aquatic resources to the maximum extent practicable, in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material (40 CFR Part 230).

Use of the mitigation bank will be permitted if the Corps determines that it is environmentally preferable to on-site mitigation. In instances where the permittee is required to obtain an individual water quality certification under Section 401 of the CWA, use of the bank will also be subject to approval of the Ohio EPA. Applicants who are permitted to use the bank to compensate for wetland losses will be required to purchase credits from NCRCPD. The number or ratio of credits required to offset permitted wetland losses will be determined by the Corps (and Ohio EPA, if required) on a case-by-case basis. The Corps (or Ohio EPA, if applicable), may also reject any proposal to use the bank and require an alternate mitigation plan.

The NCRCPD has requested authorization to sell up to 30 percent of the anticipated credits at each mitigation site prior to its construction, in order to finance construction costs. Thereafter, additional credits will be sold only after construction is completed and/or the Corps determines that the likelihood of success of the wetland restoration effort is sufficient to justify sale of additional credits.

Monitoring of the success of each mitigation site will occur for five years following construction. Thereafter, each mitigation site will be managed as a naturally functioning stream or wetland system by the respective Metropark District. Use of each mitigation site to compensate for wetland losses will cease when all available credits at that site have been sold.

Locations and details of the above described work are shown on the attached maps and drawings. A complete copy of the mitigation bank prospectus can be reviewed, by appointment, at the following locations:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
NW OH Regulatory Field Office  
1616 East Wooster Street  
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402  
(419) 353-6307

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Orwell Field Office  
33 Grand Valley Avenue  
Orwell, Ohio 44076-9566  
(440) 437-5840

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Muskingum Basin Permit Office  
5336 State Route 800, N.E.  
Dover, Ohio 44622  
(330) 364-6177

Lorain County Metroparks  
Carlisle Reservation  
12882 Diagonal Road  
LaGrange, Ohio 44050-9728  
(440) 458-5121

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207-3199  
(716) 879-4330

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
502 8th Street  
Huntington, WV 25701-2070  
(304) 529-5210

Erie County Metroparks  
3910 East Perkins Avenue  
Huron, Ohio 44839  
(419) 635-7783

Medina County Metroparks  
6364 Deerview Lane  
Medina, Ohio 44256  
(330) 722-9364

Sandusky County Metroparks  
1970 Countryside Place  
Fremont, Ohio 43420  
(419) 334-4495

Questions pertaining to the work described in this notice should be directed to Alan R. Anacheke-Nasemann, who can be contacted by calling (716) 879-4319, or by e-mail at:  
[alan.r.anacheke-nasemann@usace.army.mil](mailto:alan.r.anacheke-nasemann@usace.army.mil)

There are no registered historic properties or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places that will be affected by this project.

In addition, available evidence indicates that the proposed work will not affect a species proposed or designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior as threatened or endangered, nor will it affect the critical habitat of any such species.

This notice is promulgated in accordance with the November 28, 1995 Federal Guidance for the Establishment, Use and Operation of Mitigation Banks. Any interested party desiring to comment on the work described herein may do so by submitting their comments, in writing, so that they are received no later than 4:30 pm on the expiration date of this notice.

Comments should be sent to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207-3199, and should be marked to the attention of Alan R. Anacheke-Nasemann, or by e-mail at: alan.r.anacheke-nasemann@usace.army.mil. A lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the work as proposed.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the review of this mitigation bank prospectus. All written comments will be made a part of the administrative record. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the mitigation review team to determine whether to approve the wetland mitigation banking instrument agreeing to authorize mitigation of wetland impacts under the prospectus for the proposed mitigation bank.

Paul G. Leuchner  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

NOTICE TO POSTMASTER: It is requested that this notice be posted continuously and conspicuously for 21 days from the date of issuance.